

## Abstract: STAR to STEAM

Dorchester District Two will design and rigorously evaluate a project whose primary goal is to develop, test, revise, and implement a K-8 curriculum that integrates the newly adopted National Core Arts Standards into the South Carolina State Standards for ELA and Math. Objectives include increasing student achievement, closing achievement gaps, and increasing academic motivation for approximately 1,800 students per year.

A quasi-experimental design will evaluate growth over time by comparing standardized test scores within the target schools from one year to the next and will also track achievement compared to age-mates in two schools designated as control sites. All project activities will be carefully documented and evaluated using both formative and summative methods.

Hallmarks of the proposal include: an emphasis upon Science, Technology, Arts and Reading (STAR) in grades K-3 that will transition into an innovative STEAM project in grades 4-8, the creation of innovative Arts Discovery Labs where students and their teachers use the latest technology to explore the interfaces between the arts and academics, a strong management team that includes district personnel as well as independent consultants and evaluators; a strong emphasis upon the innovative use of technology at every grade level, alliances and partnerships with state and local arts organizations and the College of Charleston; ample opportunities for staff training and curriculum development; and an evaluation model that is both rigorous and comprehensive.